



## 2021-22 COVID-19 BACK TO SCHOOL MITIGATION PLAN

Updated Sept. 3, 2021

Peoria Unified is excited to start the new school year on August 4, while maintaining important health procedures to protect students and staff. The district has been open to in-person instruction since September of 2020 by following the requirements of public health officials. In addition to federal and state health agencies, the district has closely followed the [K-12 Guidance to Schools](#) provided by Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH). In addition, components of this plan were reviewed with representatives of district stakeholders and public opinion was provided via phone calls, emails and social media messages from the community.

Additional updates to this plan may be made in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Arizona Department of Public Health (ADHS), MCDPH, Executive Orders issued by the Governor and the decisions made by the district's Governing Board and Leadership Team. The Peoria Unified School District may make revisions to this plan at any time based on changes in federal, state or county requirements or changes in community spread of COVID-19. Some procedures may vary by school based on enrollment or layout of school campus and will be shared with parents by school principals.

### IN PERSON INSTRUCTION

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#### Masks

- Masks will continue to be optional but are recommended for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals while indoors, during times of substantial or high transmission, per the CDC and Arizona Department of Health Services. You can view the transmission rates in our community on the [Maricopa County Department of Public Health dashboard](#) (MCDPH) for schools
- Per [federal order by the CDC](#), masks are required on all district buses by students, staff and drivers, unless drivers are operating the vehicle without any passengers.
- [Maricopa County](#) recommends that fully vaccinated individuals wear a mask for up to 14 days after coming in close contact to an individual who tested positive.

#### Vaccinations

- Students, staff or visitors are not required to be vaccinated. For information on vaccinations, visit [MCDPH's website](#).

#### Mitigation Efforts

- Hand washing & sanitizer used as students enter the classroom.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in hand sanitizer stations and in individual bottles on all campuses.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) will continue to be available to students and staff as requested.
- The use of air purifiers will continue in all campus spaces.
- Lunch tables will be separated and facing one direction in Elementary Schools.
- Students encouraged to eat lunch outside and maintain social distance at High Schools.
- Masks are optional but are recommended for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals while indoors, during times of substantial or high transmission, per the CDC and Arizona Department of Health Services.
  - Per federal order by the CDC, masks are required on all district buses by students, staff and drivers.

### **At- Home Health Screening**

- A Home Health Screening and Information Guide has been created for parents and will be updated on the district website.
- Parents and guardians need to assess their child's health daily prior to heading to school or the bus stop.
- Students need to stay home if they feel ill or are exhibiting symptoms of respiratory infection.
- If staff has concerns, based on a visual check of the child, they will contact the school nurse prior to sending the student to the nurse's office.
- Students are reminded of proper hygiene, including:
  - Avoiding touching the eyes, nose, and mouth.
  - Covering the mouth when coughing.
  - Covering the nose when sneezing and safely discarding tissues.

### **Campus Procedures**

- Morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up procedures will be provided directly to parents by the school principal and are subject to change.
- Students will maintain physical distancing of at least six feet when possible.
- Students will sit and travel in cohorts.
- Seating charts are established in all classrooms (specials).
- Students will need to bring their own refillable water bottles.
- Parents who are seeking support for their child should contact their principal or call 623-412-5262.

### **Cafeteria Operations**

- Hand sanitizing stations will be available where lines form.
- Cafeteria staff will continue to package items, such as fruit and veggie bar selections.
- Students will be encouraged to space throughout the cafeteria and will face forward, where possible.

### **Extracurricular, Events and Field Trips**

- High School athletics will follow MCDPH guidelines along with guidance from AIA. Athletes and spectators will be provided with updates from their coaches and athletic directors.
- Require a safety plan for incorporating mitigation strategies at indoor events.
- Field trips are approved on a case-by-case basis.
- Elementary athletic events will be modeled after guidance provided by the AIA. Athletes and spectators will be provided with updates from their coaches and administration.
- Out-of-state travel for students will be suspended and reassessed at end of December.
- Limit volunteers and visitors on campus.

### **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

- Daily cleaning will take place on all campuses and district spaces.
- Enhanced sanitation will occur in cases where an individual has tested positive.
- Increased cleaning of high touchpoint areas in schools and district spaces.

### **Accommodations**

- In accordance with Section 504 in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1974, reasonable accommodations will be made for any student with a 504. Should you need special accommodations, reach out to your child's principal.

## Facility Rentals & Campus Visitors

- Rentals will be considered on a case-by-case basis with consideration given to indoor/outdoor
- Campus visitors and volunteers will be limited to those with an educational or operational purpose for being on campus.

## Isolation and Quarantine

The Maricopa County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) updated their notification process regarding K-12 quarantines. Effective immediately, MCDPH will now review cases, quarantine and provide schools a letter for close contacts that are reported to them each school day. Once your school receives this notification, Peoria Unified must exclude close contact students from campus for the duration of their quarantine period.

Your school will now notify you via an automated email, phone call and text if your child has been quarantined by the county and is required to be excluded from school. The school will attach a copy of the letter from Maricopa County to the email with details regarding the quarantine time frame.

The district encourages all families to make sure your contact information is updated in ParentVUE. You may opt-in for text messages by texting the word "YES" to 67587. Standard text message rates may apply.

Teachers will reach out to students who are required to quarantine with resources to support their learning from home.

**MCDPH does allow for exceptions for students** who are identified as a close contact to return to school **without being quarantined**. These [provisions](#) allowed by CDC and MCDPH are the following:

- Fully vaccinated students are not subject to quarantine.
- When a student who tests positive for COVID-19 is wearing a mask during the infectious period, other students who were exposed and also wearing a mask **consistently** and **correctly** are not subject to quarantine. This means that the student who tested positive and the identified close contact would **both** need to have been wearing a mask.
- Students who have already tested positive for COVID-19 within 90 days of being identified as a close contact are not subject to quarantine.

Families who have questions about quarantine can contact MCDPH at 1-844-542-8201 or email [COVIDparenthotline@maricopa.gov](mailto:COVIDparenthotline@maricopa.gov).

## Learning Support During Isolation & Quarantine

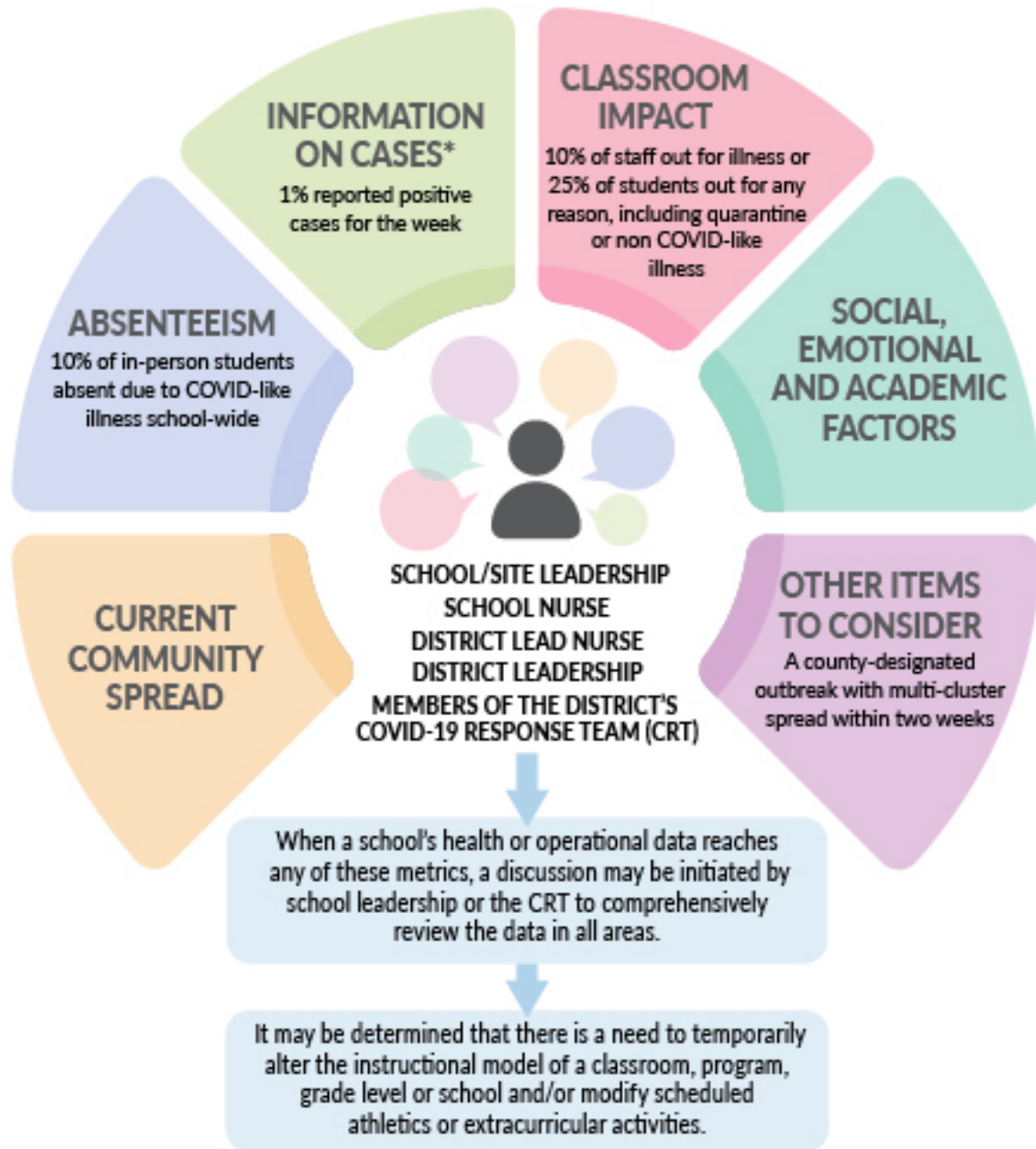
- Principals will notify teachers of students who are in isolation and quarantine.
- The teacher will determine a learning plan and prepare the necessary resources needed for at home learning.
- The teacher will contact the student and/or parent to discuss the learning plan and provide daily digital or paper-pencil assignments and instructional activities. Student laptops and hotspots may be checked out.
- The teacher will check in with students as needed to provide learning support.
- The teacher will respond to any parent or student emails and answer questions or address concerns.

**COVID-19 Response Team & Communication**

- The district's COVID-19 Response Team will assist school administrators on an as-needed basis in determining close contacts and updating protocols and procedures in accordance with new guidance and requirements.
- Parents will receive updates from the school administration about any outbreaks. Note that an outbreak is defined by MCDPH as two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with onsets within a 14-day period, who are epidemiologically-linked, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during standard case investigation or contact tracing.
- The district will provide a COVID-19 dashboard on its website to provide transparency in the number of reported cases.

# FRAMEWORK FOR POTENTIAL CHANGE IN INSTRUCTION

Peoria Unified's Process for Keeping Students and Staff Safe



### What is a positive case?

A positive case is self-reported to the school or district and confirmed with positive lab results or verified by Maricopa County Department of Public Health. Positive cases are also reported to the district directly by the county.

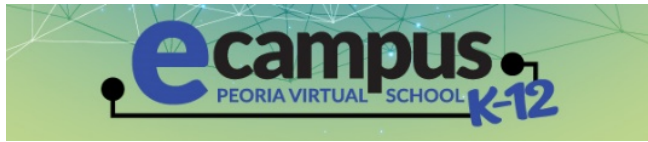
### How will I know if there is a change?

The school works with the district's Communications team to get the message out to staff, students and the community.

### Why don't I see all of this information reflected on the district's Dashboard?

Specific data on absenteeism, classrooms impacted and quarantine are not available on the district's Dashboard as each school site monitors their own daily attendance and quarantine information. This data, combined with the other metrics discussed during the CRT's daily calls with school leaders, is what may prompt the data discussion process.

If you have questions, contact your school leader.



While attending school in-person works best for most students, the district recognizes that many students, K-12, can be successful in a high-quality online program. Meeting the needs of every child is the district's priority and taking critical feedback from staff and families during the pandemic, Peoria Unified modified and enhanced its online instructional model for future school years to offer a permanent, online option for students.

The new online learning model, hosted through Peoria's eCampus Virtual School, is a full-time online learning option available to students K-12. Students are taught by certified Peoria Unified teachers who are trained to deliver quality, online teaching and learning.

This is a full-time option for students where the eCampus Virtual School will be listed as the child's "home school" and the child will be unenrolled from their traditional neighborhood school. Students enrolled in eCampus Virtual School will not be able to transition back and forth between in-person instruction and the eCampus Virtual School within the school semester, but spaces may be made available at each quarter. Those interested in enrolling should contact the administration at their child's home school to discuss if there are openings and inquire about placement on the waiting list.